

Maids Moreton Parish Council Newsletter



Summer 2021

Website: maids-moreton.co.uk

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1. Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council holds meetings every month (apart from August and January) on the first Wednesday of the month. The meetings commence at 7:30pm and are normally held in the Village Hall. All residents are invited to attend these meeting and the details are emailed (for those on the MMPC contact list) and posted on the Maids Moreton Facebook group. The next meeting is on 1st September 2021, we hope in the Village Hall.

At the May elections, all of your councillors stood; as there were only seven nominations for seven vacancies, all were returned unopposed! This is helpful in that now your councillors are deemed elected, rather than co-opted, we can become eligible to have a “general power of competence,” which essentially allows the parish council to do anything an individual can do.

All village residents are very welcome to attend the meetings and bring up any village issues that they would like the council to discuss. If you cannot attend a meeting, then you can contact our Parish Clerk. Also, if you would like to be included in the MMPC contact list, then please email the clerk:

MMPC Parish Clerk

Jacky Dale-Evans

Tel 01280 814483

Email maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com

Parish Councillors

Mark Byrne (Chairman)

Patrick Hardcastle (Vice Chair)

Ausra Mohandas

Carolyn Cumming

Graham Maw

Fiona Powell

Kenneth McClintock

2. Parish Council Actions

In addition to the management of the Village resources, such as grass cutting, litter collection, street lighting, and the maintenance of Village assets, *e.g.*, Playing Fields, Playpark, Scout Hut and Cricket Pavilion. The Council has achieved these actions since our Spring Newsletter was issued:

1. Play Around the Parishes was booked for 30th July.
2. A number of planning reviews relating to the parish have been completed. These are all detailed on our website.
3. The post on the playing fields gate has been fixed, so we can now close the playing fields if necessary.
4. We have agreed to rent the Cricket Pavilion to a childcare company.
5. We are planning to have anti climbing paint on the Cricket Pavilion roof.
6. The area full of brambles near the Play Area in the Playing Field has been partly cleared and new trees will be planted there.
7. We have asked for the Moreton Road Footpath to be repaired. This is the response:

Moreton Road Footpath.

Local Area Technician - Transport for Buckinghamshire (21/4/21)

This road is routinely inspected on a monthly frequency and any safety defects recorded (*i.e.*, those which meet the intervention levels as outlined in the Council's Highway Inspection Policy) are repaired within the appropriate timescales.

As you have stated, the surface is somewhat irregular and is less than ideal for use by wheelchairs / pushchairs etc. I will add it to the list to be submitted to our Asset Management team to be considered for inclusion in future capital funded footway resurfacing programmes.

3. Annual Parish Meeting

Held on Wednesday 14th April 2021 via Zoom at 7.30 pm

All the reports available are on our website.

1. Chairman's welcome and report by Cllr Mark Byrne was summarised.
2. Finance Report by RFO Jacky Dale-Evans was summarised.
3. We then heard the following reports:
 - a. Buckingham Rugby Club – verbal report from Simon Smith.
 - b. North Buckingham Parish – verbal report from Hans Taling (Rector of St Edmunds) and Catherine Pearce.
 - c. Maids Moreton Allotments Association – verbal report from Hywell Willmot.
 - d. Maids Moreton C of E School – Apologies sent; short verbal report given by Hans Taling.
 - e. Maids Moreton Village Hall – short report given by Stevie Lishman.
 - f. Maids Moreton WI – Apologies sent. Written report still available on our website.
 - g. Any other reports not currently filed with Maids Moreton Parish Clerk:
 - i. U3A Flower Arranging.
 - ii. Maids Moreton Conservation Group – verbal report given by Stevie Lishman

Open forum

- a. Warren Whyte reported that the BART Bus was back up and running and available for trips in Buckingham. Catherine Pearce requested information from Warren Whyte to pass onto the coffee morning volunteers who can disseminate to users of their coffee morning.
- b. Hans Taling asked for the concrete path from the playing field to Page Hill to be made more suitable for wheelchair users. The dip where the gully is can cause issues for wheelchairs.

4. Planning and Development

Walnut Drive Planning Application for 170 Houses (Application ref. 16/00151/AOP)

We are still waiting to see the Planning Inspector's findings on the VALP, which were due to be available at the end of July or early in August. Much will depend on whether he decides the site should be taken out of the VALP or retained in it. The findings should be finalised in August and we expect that Buckinghamshire Council will then make these public.

It is clearly evident that there are still major issues of concern relating to this application, in particular the conflicting statements on traffic management, whether it is intended to use Mill Lane or travel via the Old Gaol roundabout in Buckingham. There also remain serious concerns over the inadequacy of the biodiversity assessments.

The draft Section 106 Agreement (this defines the obligations of the developer to contribute to infrastructure and public services) was made available for comment in July. The draft document included errors of fact as well as mistakes in internal cross-references. MMPC submitted its comments and we await a hopefully improved version on which we shall also comment.

Other Planning Applications

Although the proposal to build two four-bedroomed detached houses between The Pightle and Walnut Drive was firmly rejected by the North Bucks Area Planning Committee, the applicant chose to appeal this decision but this was rejected. Permission to build a single pair of small, three-bedroom semi-detached houses is still valid but the devastated state of the site remains an eyesore and allowing windblown litter was certainly antisocial. We have been in contact with Planning Enforcement on this issue but unfortunately, the current mess is inadequate to trigger action.

Changes to the planning system

There is an ongoing process to revise the current planning legislation on which there is wide diversity of opinion. We shall have to await the outcome of the parliamentary discussion on this but at the moment, it certainly appears it would result in even less consideration being given to the views of local communities and existing residents.

Buckinghamshire Council is currently proposing not to post comments from members of the public, as opposed to those from statutory consultees, on the planning website. They are also proposing to remove from the website all comments and information once an application has been decided. There is as a result widespread concern among most if not all parish and town councils, certainly in North Bucks, and the North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium intends to take up both these issues.

Public comments on planning applications, albeit that they may be largely ignored by planning officers, certainly encourage other members of the public to comment and help to bring out the range of opinion that should be a cornerstone of local democracy. Furthermore, information relating to completed applications is often also crucial for both statutory consultees and members of the public in framing their responses to new applications.

It is at best unclear why Buckinghamshire Council appears to be deliberately working against both transparency and accountability in respect of planning matters as these elements are the foundation of democratic governance. While it is clearly understood that Buckinghamshire Council has to follow instructions from central government, it certainly should also be able to demonstrate more consideration of the views and interests of its residents and taxpayers than is currently apparent.

Neighbourhood Plan

We were successful in our application for further funding for the Neighbourhood Plan. This included provision for an update on the Conservation Area to emphasise the importance of both the historic and natural environments and the mutual interdependency of these.

We are aiming to have a draft Neighbourhood Plan soon but, as has been the case throughout its genesis, those working on it have had to divert attention to deal with other time-bound planning issues. Once the draft is completed, there will be a public event and summary information will be made available.

5. Family Fun Day

Play Around the Parishes & Family Picnic

Buckinghamshire Council together with local Parish Councils organise Play Around the Parishes, a roadshow of fun and games for children during the school holidays. This was booked for Friday 30th July from 10pm to 3pm. The Parish Council thought it would be a nice idea to continue the event with a family picnic and this was booked from 6pm to 10pm. Unfortunately, we had a rainy day so the family picnic was postponed to Sunday at midday. We set everything up on Sunday but the weather still wasn't great with light rain and no sunshine. However, later in the day the rain stopped and we had a good number of residents turning up and enjoying themselves despite the weather. We were well supported by the WI, The Action Group, The Conservation Group and several residents with stalls.



6. Your new Family Information Service website

Buckinghamshire's Family Information Service has a brand-new website and directory making it even easier for families, parents to be, children and young people to find local support, activities and childcare.

The new website not only has a new look and feel but lots of the latest information from the team and experts within the council.

Head over to

<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/> to take a look and find:



- support available to help with issues affecting your family
- what's on at family centres
- things to do and holiday activities
- support and inclusive activities if your child has SEND
- childcare and early years providers

Follow 'BucksFamilyInfo' on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram for the latest news affecting families and young people, local things to do and helpful reminders for all sorts of parent tasks like applying for childcare and school places.

7. News from the Rugby Club

With the recent lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, the Rugby Club is planning for a "normal" season starting in September 2021. Of course, how this actually plays out remains to be seen but we have learned a number of lessons over lockdown that will hopefully mean we have a smoother and less disruptive operation. For example, we are staggering the times of mini and junior training on a Sunday to reduce congestion.

On the social side of things, I do hope some of you were able to enjoy the "Music not in the Market" event put on by the town council, we have a couple more social events in the summer and are starting to plan for events like the "Beer and Music Festival in July 2022 and our Christmas Rugby charity event.

The club is in good health, with strong membership levels and both the Men's and Ladies' first teams competing at very good levels. We look forward to having a full season of Rugby and welcoming everyone back to the Rugby club.

Simon Smith

Chair

Buckingham Rugby Club

8. News from Maids Moreton CE School

We are now in final week of term, before we break for the Summer holiday. In the past few weeks, the children have enjoyed lots of lovely events including our annual sports' day and class assemblies. We also hosted a special week all about protecting the environment. The PTA organised an outdoor fayre for the children with traditional Summer games which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. At the end of term, we will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Roche, who is leaving Maids Moreton after 15 years to explore pastures new. She has taught in all 3 year groups and has been an inspiration to many of our children. We are very pleased to be welcoming back Mrs Seaward in September, following her adoption leave.

In June we took part in the Buckingham Otter Trail, organised by Buckingham Town Council. Our Year 2 children chose an Elmer inspired patchwork design and thoroughly enjoyed designing and painting their otter. We received a visit from the Mayor, who came to school to see our finished design. Our otter will be displayed in the window of Howes the Florist in Buckingham for the community to enjoy.

On the last afternoon of term, we will be holding our End of Year Service where we will award certificates to children based on our school Christian values of kindness, perseverance, courage and determination. The Year 2 children will also be presented with a Bible, kindly donated by the St Edmund's team.

This school year has certainly been challenging, but also highly successful. We have gone to extraordinary lengths to ensure that our children experience as near normal a school year as possible, honouring all the events on our school calendar, albeit in a modified format. I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all the staff for going above and beyond to make everything possible this year.

During this challenging time, I am pleased to report that the school expansion project is still on schedule and in full swing, which is very good news. The Summer will be a busy time, when the building team expect to make great progress towards completion in the Autumn. In September we look forward to welcoming our new Reception class, and our first Year 3 class. Exciting times lie ahead!

Keira Ainsworth

Head Teacher

9. Maids Moreton Help Portal

Maids Moreton has set up a help and support group portal:

Anyone needing help can contact the portal and it will provide help and advice by recommending support groups or neighbours who may be able to help.

Vision

Help and support vulnerable residents in Maids Moreton village.

Mission

There are many things we can help our community with; food parcels, personal shopping, click and collect, prescription collections, listening service, morale-boosting activities and much more. We will introduce people to help and support groups and agencies. We will be in constant contact with support groups across the district.

If you require and help and support, or know anyone who does, then please contact the portal straight away.

Maids Moreton Help Portal

Telephone or text: 07783 003305

Email: mmhelpportal@gmail.com

Elmer's Charity offers financial support for residents of Maids Moreton mainly for youngsters in education and for individuals or families that need short-term help to meet unexpected costs. Most grants are less than £200 but this is only a guide as there is no fixed limit. For more information, please contact elmerscharity@gmail.com or phardcastle@maids-moreton.co.uk who is a parish councillor and one of the charity's trustees.

We were recently to help a family in the village to meet very quickly unexpected costs due to ill-health. Please do make contact if you feel we could help you or someone you know.

10. Upcoming Events

St Edmunds Church

Our community coffee mornings are every Wednesday 10-12 and

We have a church service every Sunday morning at 10.30.

Our church is OPEN and Everyone is welcome.

Also, messy church and forest church will both be starting monthly from September.

We plan to have our summer fete/garden party on Monday August 30th

The scarecrow weekend and Harvest festival will be 2/3rd October.

For more information, we keep the website as up to date as possible

www.nbpchurches.org.uk

Allotments

We have planned to have a small event on the 30th August at the Allotments.

We will be offering sausage and egg baps or bacon and egg baps, toast and preserves, unlimited tea/coffee for £5 from 8.30 - 11.30am.

Those interested please book by contacting David on 01280 812868 or Ann on 01280 812613.

Maids Moreton Conservation Group

Maids Moreton Conservation Group

Following on from our meeting on climate change where we were encouraged to consider the importance of biodiversity, it was decided to put some bat boxes round the village. Chris Freeman donated the wood and a well-wisher made the bat boxes for us. See if you can spot some of them in Scott's Lane.

Our next meeting will be in the Village Hall on Wednesday 15th September at 7.30 pm. Come and join us – you will be very welcome.

Maids Moreton Cricket Club

Home fixtures:

Sat 14/08/21 v Radway CC 1.30pm.

Sun 15/08/21 v Pattishall CC 2pm.

Sat 21/08/21 v Marston St Lawrence CC 1.30pm.

Sun 22/08/21 v Chairman's XI (Charity match) 1.00pm.

11. Vegetation

As everyone will be well aware, we have had very strange weather so far during this summer, really hot days, followed by cold and wet ones. Many plants have responded by growing more slowly than normal but the accumulated heat, and recent wet days, have resulted in most plants responding with a rapid growth spurt.

Brambles in particular have appeared out of recently trimmed hedges and we would request everyone to check that the pavement outside their property is easily passable. There should be a clear passage of 1.8m height along all footways and there should not be brambles or other botanical impediments encroaching onto footways.

In respect of trees that have branches overhanging footways or roads, it is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner to keep them cut. If the tree has a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on it, or is within the Conservation Area, you will need to apply for permission to cut even overhanging branches. A tree is defined as having a diameter of 7.5cm or more at 1.5m above the ground. Shrubs do not count! Any tree in the Conservation Area now has exactly the same level of protection as if it had a TPO on it.

There does not seem to be any defined height standard for cutting overhanging branches but as a guide this should be 2.3m clear height along pavements and footpaths and 3.6m clear height over the carriageway. On major roads or bus routes, the height should be 5.2 m where branches grow over the carriageway plus 0.45m each side of the carriageway to allow vehicles to pass unimpeded. Landowners must also cut back any vegetation coming from their property which is obstructing street lamps.

To secure permission to cut a protected tree, or one in the Conservation Area, go onto the Buckinghamshire website and fill in a Planning Application. There is no charge (yet!) for this: <https://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/section/protected-trees-and-hedgerows> Click on "[Apply online](#)" and it takes you to the Planning Portal. Work through "Planning Applications" and eventually you will reach a page with a drop-down menu in which one option relates to trees. It is not intuitive, be prepared.

If the Planning Portal does not work, or you wish to apply on a paper form. contact either Pat Hardcastle (phardcastle@maids-moreton.co.uk) or the parish clerk for a PDF or a hard copy of the application form.

If you have dangerous tree, then contact the tree officer in Aylesbury or the parish clerk so that it can be dealt with quickly.

12. Why is Walking so good for you?

The Physical benefits

Walking is really good for your body.

Studies have shown that having a daily walk can reduce the risk of stroke in both men and women, reduce the days spent in a hospital each year and can even lower your risk of death by about 40 percent (when compared with no leisure-time physical activity).

A study published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine found that those who adhered to a walking program showed significant improvements in blood pressure, slowing of resting heart rate, reduction of body fat and body weight, reduced cholesterol, improved depression scores with better quality of life and increased measures of endurance.

The Mental benefits

Walking is like a brain massage.

One study found that just 12 minutes of walking resulted in an increase in cheerfulness, concentration and self-confidence versus the same time spent sitting. Walking in nature, specifically, was found to be even better for you.

Maids Moreton

We have a very good village for walking. We can have a nice quick walk around our lovely village including Main Street and Scott's Lane, or the little circular country walk. We have nice countryside walks to our neighbouring villages, or if the ground is too wet and mushy, we can even have nice road walks on country lanes relatively free of cars. We can also have a town walk into Buckingham for a coffee or a beer.

Enjoy your walking!



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